

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 44-47, 54, 83, and 88 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims [amended claims] stand currently amended. Claims 48-53, 55-82, 84-87, and 89 stand previously withdrawn, and Claims 1-43 stand previously canceled. Claims 44-89 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by applicant to overcome each of the Examiner's outstanding rejections to current Claims 44-47, 54, 83, and 88. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 44-47, 54, 83, AND 88 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

On page 2 of the current Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 44-47, 54, 83, and 88 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed and believed overcome in view of the following discussion.

A. Claims 44, 45, 83, and 88

Claim 44 has been amended to state that “a free end of each of said holding elements being provided with a first inclined surface ... and with a second inclined surface...” As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that this portion of Claim 44 has now been clarified.

In addition, Claim 44 has been amended to state that “the holding element is pushed back against a spring force by the opening edge and with a second inclined surface...” As such, Claim 44 now positively recites a spring. An embodiment of this spring is shown in Figs. 42A-42D by spring 4144.

Claim 44 has also been amended to state that “said holding elements being slides which are arranged so as to be displaceable in a cylinder, formed in the body part, that is parallel to the plane of the thin wall and is rectangular in cross section...” As such, Claim 44 now clarifies that the cylinder is formed in the body part. An embodiment of such a cylinder is shown in Figs. 42B by rectangular opening through the body part.

Further, Claim 44 states that “said slides being held against the spring force by a hook arrangement locking between the slides or in the cylinder, or by friction forces, or by a pin.” An embodiment of the holding elements being slides is shown in Figs. 42A-42D (in particular, Fig. 42D) by holding elements 4136, which are displaceable in the cylinder formed in the body part (shown in Fig. 42B). In the embodiment of Figs. 42A-42D, the holding elements 4136 are held against the spring 4144 by the pin 4196, which engages with the inserts 4183 of the holding elements 4136. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that the structural relationship between the holding elements, which are slides, and the cylinder is clear.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claim 44 is in proper form, as are Claims 45, 83, and 88 because they are dependent from Claim 44. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 44, 45, 83, and 88 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

B. Claim 46

As stated in Claim 46, the holding elements are elements which (1) support the holding elements after the fitting is mounted in the thin wall, and (2) are held or carried by the body part. As explained in Claim 47, a subset of such holding elements includes are spring arrangements, such as spiral springs, and wedge arrangements, such as a tapered-head screw. E.g., See Figs. 26, 27, and 42A-42D.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 46 is in proper form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

C. Claim 47

Examiner asserts that the Figs. 42A-42D must show the alternative or combinations claimed by Claim 47. This, however, is **incorrect**. The totality of the disclosure of the current Application supports the language of Claim 47. E.g., See Figs. 26, 27, and 42A-42D.

In addition, since Claim 47 reads on the embodiment where “the supporting elements that support two holding elements which are arranged diametrically opposite from one another are spring arrangements, such as spiral springs,” Claim 47 is

readable on the embodiment of Figs 42A-42D. Thus Claim 47 is properly a part of the elected species.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 47 is in proper form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

D. Claim 54

Claim 54 has been amended, as suggested by Examiner, to state that “each holding element...”

In addition, Claim 54 has been amended so as to clarify what is meant by “a movement direction”.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 54 is in proper form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

II. WITHDRAWN CLAIMS 55-82, 84-87, AND 89

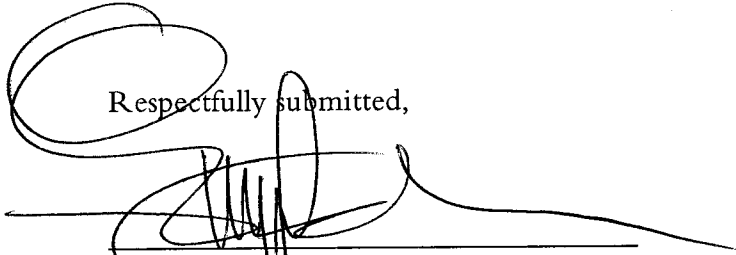
Withdrawn Claims 55-82, 84-87, and 89 are all ultimately dependent from independent Claim 44. As Claim 44 is allowable, so must be Claims 55-82, 84-87, and 89. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 55-82, 84-87, and 89 are in allowable form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner **rejoin and allow** Claims 55-82, 84-87, and 89.

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Based upon the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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